



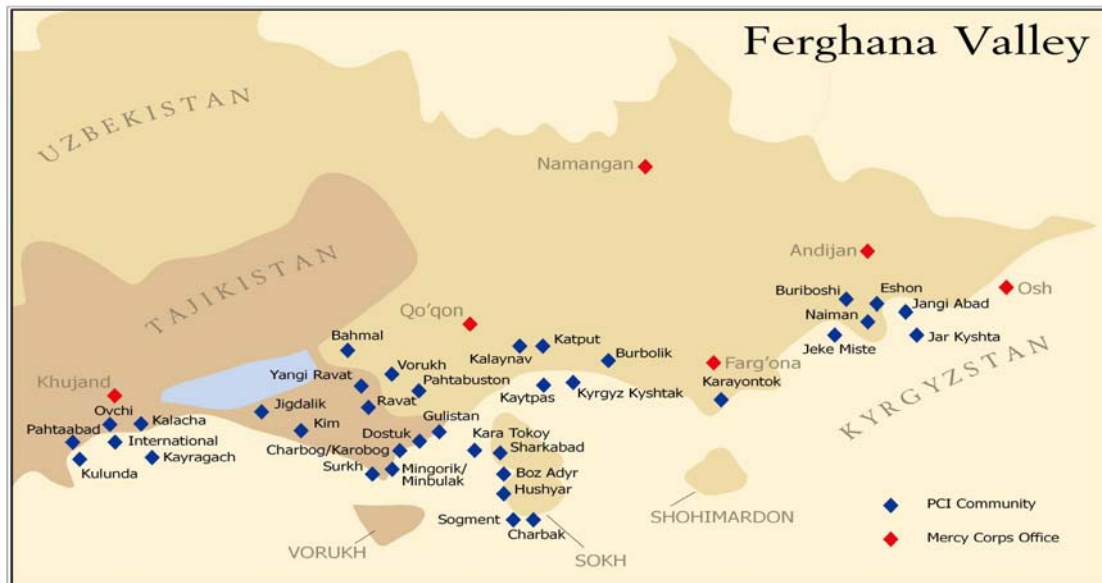
## **USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative**



**July-September 2004  
Quarterly Report**

# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>I. Overview of USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) Program</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III. Indicator Results from PCI Logframe</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>IV. PCI Community Initiative Group Survey Results</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>V. Improve Environment for Inter-community Cooperation and Partnership</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>VI. Increase Abilities of Communities to Identify Sources of Conflict</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>VII. Coordination</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>VIII. Contact Information</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix A: PCI Infrastructure Projects July - September 2004</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix B: PCI Social and Skill Building Projects July - September 2004</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix C: USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Logical Framework</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Appendix D: List of USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Communities</b>	<b>31</b>



## **I. Overview of USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) Program**

The Peaceful Communities Initiative is a three-year USAID \$3.3 million funded project that has been operating since October 2001, in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the three republics that share the Ferghana Valley. PCI's aim is to reduce inter-ethnic and trans-border conflict through a combination of social and infrastructure projects driven by local Community Initiative Groups (CIGs). Through such projects, PCI strives to bring communities together to address common problems to improve the quality of life in communities across national, ethnic, gender and age boundaries, and to increase the ability of communities to identify sources of conflict and participate in a constructive dialogue to generate and implement sustainable solutions.

PCI is implemented through a partnership of local and international NGOs: ICA-EHIO and Ittifok in Tajikistan; Mehr, Fido and the Business Women's Association of Kokand in Uzbekistan; the Foundation for Tolerance International in Kyrgyzstan; and Mercy Corps in all three countries. Members of these partner organizations work together in six field teams of mixed ethnicity and gender. These six field teams work in six different regions of the Ferghana Valley between the cities of Khujand and Osh, taking a grassroots community development approach to conflict prevention. The intentional mixture of ethnicities and nationalities within each field team has been critical in earning the trust of the diverse populations they serve and maintaining an unbiased approach to understanding and addressing community problems in this complicated region. The fundamental approach of the project is to involve a large number of stakeholders from rural communities in border areas in the decision-making process that will lead to social and infrastructure projects designed to reduce tension over scarce resources and increase peaceful contact and communication.

## **II. Introduction**

This report covers Peaceful Communities Initiative activities from July through September 2004. During this period, a wide variety of activities and initiatives continued to be taken in PCI's 36 transborder communities in order to address the PCI two objectives, as stated in the cooperative agreement:

- I. Improve environment for inter-community cooperation and partnership through access and exchange of information and peer networking.
- II. Increase abilities of communities to identify sources of conflict and participate in constructive dialogue to generate and implement solutions

During the period of this report, PCI held 9 social and skill building projects, and worked on 32 infrastructure projects. During the period of this report, USAID's PCI program had the following media coverage: 12 radio spots, 16 television, 16 newspaper, 4 electronic list serves for a total of 46 spots covering the project, at the local and national level.

As in previous reports, this report begins with an overview of the indicator results from PCI's logical framework and followed by specific activities to illustrate how PCI is addressing the aforementioned objectives.<sup>1</sup>

This quarterly report highlights selected success stories that have addressed the PCI goal of reducing the potential for conflict in the Ferghana Valley. Examples are drawn from infrastructure projects such

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<sup>1</sup> This logical framework is an unofficial document created to measure PCI's overall goal to reduce the potential for conflict in the Ferghana Valley.

as natural gas pipelines, irrigation canal rehabilitation, and the construction of a new school, as well as social projects such as summer camps, a youth leadership program and sport programs which have led to improving relationships across borders and between ethnic groups. There is also a section in this report highlighting the results of a behavioral and attitudinal change survey conducted in August 2004 of 31 PCI Community Initiative Groups members. The last section highlights some of the coordination activities with other USAID implementing partners and international donors during the period.

Four appendices are included in this report: PCI Infrastructure Projects July-September 2004, PCI Social and Skill Building Projects July-September 2004, USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Logical Framework and Indicator Results through September 2004, and a list of USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Communities.

### **III. Indicator Results from PCI Logframe**

In the summer of 2003, the PCI team put together a logical framework that included objectives, activities, and indicators to improve PCI's ability to measure its overall goal to reduce the potential for conflict in the Ferghana Valley. None of the indicators in the logframe individually demonstrate a reduction in the potential for conflict, but analyzed together, they provide evidence that tensions have been reduced by improving relations between ethnic groups, across borders, and local governments (between communities and local government, and governments across international borders). The PCI logical framework and recent results through September 2004 can be found in Appendix C of this report. Below is a brief narrative of the results to date.

#### *Improved Cooperation between Ethnic Groups and Across International Boundaries*

Increased inter-ethnic and cross-border activities contribute to improving trust and tolerance among residents, and improved trust and cooperation in turn contributes to increased stability in the region, making it less likely that ethnic or national divisions will provide the fuel for violent conflict. To date, there have been 192 social projects implemented during PCI. Over 104 social projects have involved more than two ethnic groups, including advocacy trainings, civic education trainings for teachers, photography competitions, women leadership trainings, social theater, sports leagues, and trainings for potable water committees. In addition, a testament to the strength and acceptance of the community mobilization process, 53 multi-community social projects were developed by CIGs outside of the PCI framework (without USAID funding). Because a majority of PCI communities are clustered this has resulted in a significant increase in community members crossing borders more frequently.

Of the 83 infrastructure projects to date, approximately 90% of them provide services to multi-ethnic populations, cross-border, or to mono-ethnic minority communities (i.e. an ethnic Kyrgyz community in Uzbekistan). In addition, there have been 14 multi-community infrastructure projects, such as irrigation, health clinic, drinking water, and natural gas projects. Since this type of project usually addresses a concrete source of tension (often transborder), these projects are clearly the most difficult, requiring villagers from neighboring communities to put aside their differences, and work together. In Section VI below, three examples of transborder infrastructure projects (a school, potable water system, and rehabilitation of an irrigation canal) implemented by PCI have all reduced tensions between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan residents.

#### *Increased Community Participation in Identifying and Resolving Local Priorities Utilizing Local Resources and Skills*

The PCI process is community-driven, led by Community Initiative Groups. All infrastructure projects require at least 25% match funding. This match requirement promotes the selection of projects that

residents value as being high priority. Additionally, having communities use their own resources promotes the sustainability of projects. This match also increases the complexity of projects, requiring constant dialogue and cooperation between various stakeholders and resulting in improved mutual understanding. To date, community contribution/match or promised for all PCI infrastructure projects is 63%.

PCI has placed a priority on creating sustainable management plans for projects that have a pricing mechanism for operation and maintenance (natural gas projects, drinking water, bath houses, school heating systems, etc). This has been done by establishing formal and informal organizations that can collect user fees, such as water committees to maintain drinking water systems. To date, residents in PCI communities have a payment rate of 70% for services provided under the project, and 19 associations have been formally registered. With an association responsible for a community owned utility, citizens now have an outlet for their complaints about service, which in turn leads to a better understanding of citizens that they need to pay for services or the systems will fail. Trainings and community meetings to address the problems of operation and maintenance of infrastructure were conducted throughout the period.

#### *Increased Community-Based Advocacy and Government Support of Community Driven Initiatives*

One of the major sources of tension in PCI communities is the widely held perception that the government does not serve all segments of the population equally, and is not responsive to local needs. More often than not, this is the result of little or no communication between government and villages. PCI has promoted CIGs and community residents to advocate to their representative government officials for assistance in PCI projects. This advocacy has resulted in a large amount of government contribution. Local governments have contributed to 95% of PCI's 83 infrastructure projects. This partnership during implementation is a step forward in breaking down the perception that government representatives are indifferent. In addition, 19 projects identified as community priorities were addressed with the support of local government as a result of CIGs advocating their needs to local government outside of the PCI project framework (these have included construction of child care centers, health clinics, and providing land for sports fields). Additionally, communities are now reaching out to local government representatives and inviting them to attend all social events. Of the 192 social projects that PCI has held, at least one local government representative has attended 76% of the projects. Though often symbolic, this is another sign of improved government support for these communities.

One example of improved advocacy is clearly evident by CIG members in PCI communities Boz-Adyr, Kara-Tokoy, Sogment and Charbak in Batken Oblast. Residents were dissatisfied by their declining social infrastructure and economic conditions. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, residents increasingly blamed the deteriorating conditions on unresponsive local authorities. To promote the community mobilization process, PCI field officers conducted advocacy training for all the CIG members. After the trainings the CIG members met with oblast authorities to discuss PCI activities in their respective communities. Subsequently, the Batken Governor Askar Shadiyev and other oblast department heads visited each of the communities to discuss the PCI process with the CIG members and local residents. As a result, the Batken Raion Mayor agreed to hold roundtable meetings in each of the four communities with CIG members on the PCI process.<sup>2</sup> This process has assisted the communities in securing local government contribution for each of their infrastructure projects. In addition, the Batken Mayor in an effort to demonstrate his recognition of the community mobilization process presented 23 Honor Certificates to selected residents for their hard work in implementing community infrastructure and social projects.

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<sup>2</sup> Roughly speaking, an "oblast" is the equivalent to U.S state and a "raion" to a county in the U.S.

#### IV. PCI Community Initiative Group Survey Results

As part of an ongoing assessment of PCI activities during the first three years of program implementation, PCI's partner organization ICA:EHIO conducted a survey among 31 Community Initiative Group members at a conference in late-August. The goal of the written survey was to measure program impact by assessing attitudinal and behavioral change. Using a scale of 1-5, (1 – very bad, 2 – poor, 3 – moderate; 4 –good; 5 – excellent), CIG members were asked to respond to the following questions in written form:

1A. How would you classify relations between members of your community and neighboring communities populated by other nationalities and/or across borders before PCI began?

*The mean response was 3.0 – “moderate.”*

1B. How would you now classify relations between members of your community and neighboring communities populated by other nationalities and/or across borders?

*The mean response increased to 4.1 – “good.”*

2A. How would you evaluate your community's hopes for the future and optimism before PCI began?

*The mean response was 2.7 – between “poor” and “moderate.”*

2B. How would you now evaluate your community's hopes for the future and optimism?

*The mean response increased to 4.3 – between “good” and “excellent.”*

3A. How would you classify relations between members of your community and local government officials before PCI began?

*The mean response was 2.9 – slightly lower than “good.”*

3B. How would you now classify relations between members of your community and local government officials?

*The mean response increased to 4.0 – “good.”*



*CIG members fill out surveys*



4A. How would you classify your community's ability to mobilize around a common project before PCI began?

*The mean response was 3.4 – between “moderate” and “good.”*

4B. How would you now classify your community's ability to mobilize around a common project?

*The mean response increased to 4.0 – “good.”*

5A. How would you classify your community's decision-making structures before PCI began?

*The mean response was 2.7 – between “poor” and “moderate.”*

5B. How would you now classify your community's decision-making structures?

*The mean response increased to 4.0 – “good.”*

While the results of the survey alone cannot be considered scientific proof of successful project implementation, they do underscore a marked improvement in PCI target communities' mobilization and decision-making structures, as well as relations with neighboring villages and government structures over the past three years. The survey results are further supported by recent on-the-ground evidence of communities and governments collaborating to undertake initiatives outside of the PCI framework, and villages which had been in conflict in the past gathering together for social occasions and implementing joint infrastructure projects.

Perhaps the most remarkable shift in attitudinal change is revealed in response to question three – community representatives claim that they are now much more optimistic and hopeful about their future. During the next quarter, PCI staff will build upon these survey results by conducting studies with other community leaders, youth in target communities, and local government officials. The results of these assessments will help to guide new project implementation as well as the creation of improved baseline data indicators to more effectively measure attitudinal and behavioral change. This quantitative data will provide an important complement to the extensive qualitative information which has been gathered.

## **V. Improve Environment for Inter-community Cooperation and Partnership**

### *Kyrgyz and Uzbek Youth Build Closer Ties*

From August 12-21, more than 80 teenagers from the Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan bordering villages of Kaytpas, Korayantak, Kyrgyz- Kyshtak in Kyrgyzstan and Borbalyk, Katput, Kalaynav in Uzbekistan took part in a camp called “World of Peacemakers.” The main purpose of the camp was to increase tolerance among the communities' young people who had been in conflict in the past. Previously, there have been fistfights and even fierce battles involving steel bars between unruly youth from different ethnic groups. Most of these conflicts had involved young people from the Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan villages of Kyrgyz-Kyshtak and Katput where rice and cotton fields are separated only by a small river.



In an effort to help resolve these tensions, community leaders from cross-border areas had met and made oral commitments to better control the young people in their respective communities. However, it was only after the launching of targeted programs aimed at youth that relations began to show a tangible improvement. The World of Peacemakers camp was built in fact upon three years of cross-border trust building activities for youth in the target areas.

Throughout the PCI program, youth from the target communities have taken part in talent shows, festivals, sports competitions and camps. Following a youth summer camp which took place in 2002, youth organized the “Friendship” mail service to enable children from neighboring communities to stay in contact with one another as well as make new friends. Through this network, more than 1350 youth in the target communities have corresponded with young people in other villages. Monthly quiz show competitions among the village youth have also helped to strengthen these contacts.

Following this year’s summer camp, some of the brightest camp participants led trainings for their classmates in their home communities on tolerance building. The project has contributed in a notable shift in attitude. As one 11th grader, Jangijigit from Katput recently said: “I can’t wait until all of my new friends will come to Katput. And now I can guarantee the safety for anyone who will visit my village – no matter what his nationality.”

#### *Chess League Unites Tajik and Kyrgyz Villages*

““Checkmate!’ That’s the word I fear the most from my Tajik neighbors these days,” a middle-aged Kyrgyz man named Baratbek from the village of Dostuk laughed on July 21. At least one per month, Baratbek gathers to take part in a chess tournament with men from the nearby Tajikistan villages of Chorbog, Karabog, Guliston, Kim and Surh, as well as the Kyrgyz villages of Mingbulak and Minurik.

“It’s sometimes hard to believe that we’re friends with one another,” Baratbek said motioning across the board to an elderly Tajik man named Ibrohim. Baratbek and Ibrohim recall that it wasn’t long ago that Kyrgyz from Dostuk would sometimes nearly come to blows with their upstream neighbors in the Tajik villages of Chorbog and Karabog over water usage.

“There was a lot of animosity here,” Ibrohim Bek said. “But now we get together to play chess, our wives and daughters are always organizing some holiday or another, and our children even attend the same summer camps.”





*Championship match*

The chess playing men agreed that they enjoy their joint activities with their neighbors far too much to allow any disagreements to seriously disrupt their good relations. “Will there be disputes among us in the future? Of course there will be. There are disputes and problems among all people – even people who are related,” Baratbek opined. “But the difference now is that through these activities that we do together, we have gotten to know one another. And we have learned to talk about our problems without getting too upset.... So whose move is it?”

#### *Summer Camp Brings Together Tajik, Kyrgyz and Uzbek High School Students*

From July 12 - 22, 70 children from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan border areas took part in a summer camp which featured seminars in economics, journalism and health.

During the first couple of days of the camp, the young people were clearly reluctant to mix with children from other villages and ethnic groups. Instead, the children would usually just sit and talk with other boys and girls from their own village, or at least their nationality. “But we wouldn’t let the kids keep to themselves,” one college-aged Tajik volunteer, Farzona, said. “Through ice-breakers, mixing children in seminars and even dancing, we helped them to come out of their shells.”

It was in part through example that the children were encouraged to mix with members of other ethnicities as counselors, volunteers, organizers and trainers included Uzbeks, Kyrgyz and Tajiks. These staff members who were mostly young would consistently assist those children who were having trouble communicating.

“One of the highlights of the camp for me,” one volunteer named Aijan reported, “was when I saw a Tajik girl and Uzbek girl trying to communicate. When they couldn’t figure out what word the other one was using, the Uzbek girl grabbed a marker and drew what she wanted to express. I think that the shared laugh between those girls when they finally understood one another was the highlight of this camp.”



*Opening Ceremony of the summer camp*

In addition to increasing understanding among children from different ethnicities, the camp also provided highly applicable trainings. The economics seminars included practical lessons on setting up a cafe, making a personal budget, making a business plan, and advertising. The health seminars focused on personal and environmental health, and included children drawing a map of their home communities and indicating dangerous areas. And the journalism training offered practical skills on how to write a news article. Several children wrote articles about their home villages and one Tajik boy named Shaokat authored an article called: “Borders Stand In the Way of Our Friendships.”

“I’m so glad that this camp gave me an opportunity to meet boys and girls from nearby who I never met before,” Shaokat said confidently. “I’m positive I’ve made lasting friendships here!”

#### *Sport, Health and Conflict Resolution in a Tajik Village*

On September 28, PCI completed the reconstruction of a sports field and volleyball court at a high school in the village of Chorbogh. The rehabilitated field will serve as a place for Tajik children to attain increased physical fitness as well as to host competitions with Kyrgyz children from the neighboring village of Dostuk. After completion of the construction, there was an official opening ceremony which was followed by a soccer match with Kyrgyz and Tajik school children. According to the school principal Orifdzhon Sharipov, in the past year, there hadn’t been any formal sporting events organized for the children and youth in the village. In addition, the village of Chorbog didn’t have any decent physical education classes. As Sharipov stated, “The youth here had become passive and started losing interest in fitness.”





*Opening tip-off at new Chorbog basketball court*

Youth at the opening ceremony agreed. As one high school student stated, “Now we will have something to do in our free time. When it wasn’t the harvesting season, some of my friends and I used to just sit around all day with nothing to do. I think this is the main reason that we would pick fights with one another.” Another student offered, “Who knows? Maybe a future sports star will play on this soccer field. Then this small soccer field will be famous across Central Asia!”

#### USAID’s Osh Summer/Autumn Sport League

As part of the project launched in the winter of 2002 with the Urban Institute in Bishkek, the third summer/autumn Osh sports league was held. The original program was developed to strengthen the development of condominiums formed under the Kyrgyzstan Condominium Law that was supported by USAID. The condominium law was promulgated to promote the operation and maintenance of common resources in privatized block apartment building (roofs, stairwells, trash collection, common land, and other shared resources.) PCI collaborated with this project as the resident block apartments are ethnically diverse and the need for communities to take responsibility for their problems is an underlining goal of PCI. In 2002, a competition in which all 30 registered condominiums participated resulted in the construction of five sports facilities. During the period of this report, the third year of the city wide sports program was implemented.

The city of Osh does not have adequate sports and recreational facilities for the youth, and those youth who are involved in sports are only a select few talented athletes. Without the youth programs from the Soviet period, a growing number of youth have turned for recreation to alcohol and drugs. Not dependent on athletic ability, this program has given Osh children the simple right to play, promote healthy lifestyles, and maintain and strengthen friendships between ethnic groups. During the quarter, condominium residents conducted minor repairs of all sports grounds.



*Kyrgyz and Uzbek boys following volleyball game*

Twelve youth trainers were hired from USAID's Ferghana Valley Basketball League to be basketball and volleyball coaches. The young coaches received \$20 a month to train their respective teams. Each team was provided with basic equipment: basketballs, volleyballs, nets, and sport apparel contributed by the Nike Corporation. At each condominium, coaches led practices for the local children at least three times per week.

During the period of the project, almost 200 boys and girls aged 14 and 15 participated in the sport activities. The ethnic composition of participants was 46% Kyrgyz, 43% Uzbeks and 11% Russians. The teams were evenly divided between volleyball and basketball. Over the course of the tournament 80 officiated games were played, and the younger coaches served as referees.

The head of the Osh-Kolos Condominium said "the USAID's Osh Sport League helps keep young people away from the negative influence of the street, preventing youth from turning to alcohol and drugs at an early age. It has also helped to strengthen communication among the parents in our condominium." Alexei Pilyugin, a 17 year coach, said "the kids were really enthusiastic about participating in the league especially the official games. Throughout Osh even when we are not holding practices or games, kids are constantly playing on the courts."

#### *Future Leaders Program for Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan Border Communities*

In 2002, PCI team members working in six communities on the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan border quickly realized that there were few recreational activities for youth and this was resulting in rising crime rates, alcoholism, and drug addiction.<sup>3</sup> In community interviews, local residents blamed the rising number of disenfranchised youth on the closure of youth programs popular during the Soviet period. Because of the tightening of borders, youth also had little opportunity to positively interact with neighboring communities and ethnic groups across the border. The PCI team decided in 2002 to begin a two year "Future Leaders Program." Through the establishment of youth clubs, the project sought to increase communication between youth from different ethnic groups and communities focused on education, media, sports activities, and youth camps. In addition, the goal was to have youth take a more active role in the problems that their respective communities face.

<sup>3</sup> PCI works in border communities of Buri-Boshi, Eshon, Nayman of Markhamat Rayon (Uzbekistan) and Jeke- Miste, Jar-Kyshtak, Jany- Abad of Aravan Rayon (Kyrgyzstan). The total population of the six communities is about 15,000, consisting of ethnic Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Urygurs, and Turks.

All the program activities were driven by youth groups in the communities. The process started with trainings for young leaders from six communities, who were selected through a competitive application process. Trainings included sessions on leadership, teamwork, self-management, and successful communication skills. After the first series of trainings, 14 year old Botirova Gulbahor from Jar-Kyshtak said:

“We have never participated in trainings like this before. The lessons were nothing like what we receive at school, and we learned a lot. I liked that I had an opportunity to express my opinion. I understood how important it is for young people to take responsibility for problems in our school and mahalla. Everything is in our hands and we can change lives to in a positive direction. Personally I believe in my potential. Also, I met children from other communities, where PCI works. We have a lot of common interests.”

After the trainings, these youth solicited volunteers to work together to form “Leadership Teams” in their respective schools. These leadership teams began to develop youth groups, conduct educational programs, and participate in solving the social problems in their communities. In each community youth developed “Leadership Corners”, where they assessed the results of their activities. All their activities were coordinated with their PCI Community Initiative Groups (CIG) members. Talking about a Future Leaders Program, Utanov Azimjon, Buriboshi CIG Leader said:

“Not only did CIG members notice the development of the youth movement among children, but many community residents followed their example. Children very often came with ideas, suggestions and brought them into reality, for example they invited friends from neighboring communities to our Navruz festival, conducted litter clean up, and implemented cultural activities in the school. They even have involved their friends from neighboring communities to assist in the school roof reconstruction project.”

Young leaders in the Jeke-Miste high school conducted 14 seminars for students from neighboring schools on “Student Self-Management,” helped their teachers conduct small school repair projects, and organized and held volleyball tournaments among boys and girls in their community. Young leaders from Jani-Abad Village organized chess tournaments, a talent show devoted to Women’s Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>), and volleyball tournament among girls in their community.





*Talent Show Organized by Youth Groups from Six PCI Communities*

In Jar-Kyshtak children conducted a campaign to help disabled citizens. Also, the youth groups took an active role in the preparation for larger community activities, such as Navruz, sport leagues, talent shows, and assisted CIG members in selecting children for the PCI summer camp.

The Future Leaders Program was a key to the success of “PCI Friendship III Youth Summer Camp” held in August 2003 in Osh, which consisted of seminars on leadership, healthy lifestyles, tolerance, journalism, theater and sports competitions. Eight young leaders from different communities worked as volunteers, assisting trainers, and tutors. They were moderators for Small Initiative Groups and were responsible for the preparation and participation of the team in the camp’s different activities. In talking about his role as a young leader in the youth camp Saribayev Elizar, Jany-Abad Village said:

“It is really cool to be a leader! Before we were responsible only for our individual actions, in the camp we have one team and we feel responsibility for success and failure of our team. Feeling this responsibility, first of all, I tried to unite my team because there were children from different communities, secondly the program of the camp had many competitions, that is why it was necessary make quick group decisions on different issues, taking into consideration everyone’s opinion. The youth camp helped us to make a lot of friends.”

Over the course of the past two years the “Future Leaders Program” program has taught hundreds of children about leadership skills based on democratic principles. These youth are now taking an active role in the development of their community.

## **VI. Increase Abilities of Communities to Identify Sources of Conflict**

### *Buriboshi Residents Connected to Gas Lines*

The Uzbekistan village of Buriboshi, located near the border of the Kyrgyz republic, is populated primarily by ethnic Kyrgyz. When PCI first began working in Buriboshi, many of the residents of this impoverished, remote village expressed the feeling that their government was consciously ignoring

their community's needs. "Gas pipelines run directly into neighboring villages where ethnic Uzbeks live," complained Egamberdi, a 55 year old farmer, citing one example of neglect. "But we've been left with nothing and the government doesn't want to help."

When PCI field officers met with Buriboshi residents, community representatives quickly came to a consensus that the lack of gas in their village was one of the leading contributors to poor economic conditions, frequent sicknesses and a general state of malaise. As one community initiative group member, Odinahon, a 39 year old housewife, put it: "It used to be very cold in our houses. Because we didn't have any gas, we were forced to purchase coal or firewood if we wanted to warm up even a little bit. But this was very expensive and it was sad to see all of our trees being chopped down. Our children were often sick and we wasted a lot of money on medicines."



*Installation of Gas Pipeline*

As a result of the project "Blue Gold" which was completed in September 2004, Buriboshi now has a steady supply of gas. In order to undertake the project, community residents first needed to understand that it would not have been possible without the community's willingness to actively contribute. "It was hard for many of us to comprehend initially," Egambergi explained. "Most people thought that it was all the government's job. But after a long series of discussions with PCI staff, we came to understand that we had to participate if we wanted to improve our future."

The community contributed \$12,845 towards this \$29,615 project. Community contribution came primarily in the form of providing food and lodging for outside technical contractors; digging trenches, installing posts, carrying materials and painting posts. And at the end of the project, the community organized a large celebration which was attended by Uzbek and Kyrgyz residents from surrounding villages.

As a result of the implementation of the project, 2100 residents of Buriboshi now have gas. But just as importantly, the communities learned how proper organizational structures and self-help mechanisms

can bring lasting change. As a leading CIG representative, Sariboyev, stated: “The implementation of this project has taught us how to cooperate more effectively and to gather community resources to resolve problems. The rest of our community really got behind our efforts because our actions were transparent. We will definitely use our experience from this project in solving other problems in our community.”

*Irrigation Water Conflict Between Kyrgyz and Tajik Villages Solved Through Peaceful Means*

On August 4, the reconstruction of an agricultural canal in the Tajikistan village of Karabog in the Isfara district was completed after more than five months of work. The project completion was marked in ceremony by Kyrgyz and Tajik community leaders and government officials. The canal was identified as a main priority of the villagers in Karabog, the nearby village of Chorbog and the Kyrgyzstan village of Dostuk from the earliest stages of the PCI project. The dearth of water in this canal had been a source of major conflict among many villagers in the past. Upstream villages were constantly cutting off the water supply to irrigate their own gardens, leaving downstream villages with insufficient resources.



*Community Labor Contribution*

In addition to a resolution that was based on technical questions, there were problems of communications among the residents of the various villages. As a part of the PCI project, there are now inter-community water users groups which help to regulate the usage of this precious resource. The newly rehabilitated canal provides water for all of these communities. Government officials and community leaders who attended the opening ceremony remarked how the project will help communities to use their land more effectively, yield a greater share of agricultural produce, and promote interethnic cooperation.

*New School in Kyrgyz Republic Unites Students from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan*

On September 6, construction was completed on a new two-story school building in the village of Kulunda in Leilak district of the Kyrgyz Republic. Before this secondary school was completed, more than 1800 students crammed into a 30 year old building originally intended for 940 pupils. Among the students were more than 50 ethnic Kyrgyz children from the Tajikistan village of Pakhtabad which is located less than three kilometers from Kulunda. Since there are no secondary schools within Tajikistan



in close proximity to Pakhtabad which offer Kyrgyz as the language of instruction, the local Kyrgyzstan department of education had previously agreed to permit the residents of Tajikistan to cross the border to attend secondary school in the Leilak district.



*Kulunda School under Construction*

But given the overcrowded conditions of the previous school, this issue became a bone of contention between the bordering communities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. “Over the last couple of years, the problem of children coming over the border from Tajikistan had become the source of resentment among some of the residents of Kulunda,” Abdulatip Salimbekov, the head of the Kulunda Initiative Group said. “We all understood that the Pakhtabad parents wanted their children to attend secondary school in their native language, but there was a feeling that the kids from Tajikistan were exacerbating the problem of overcrowded classrooms.”



*First Day of School in Kulunda*

Following the community mobilization effort led by Peaceful Community Initiative staff, residents of Kulunda understood that a new secondary school would reduce a whole range of their problems. In fact, the mobilization effort was so successful, the community eventually agreed to commit more than 55% of the total cost of the \$99,000 project. At the opening ceremony on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the head of the department of education in Leilek district presented new textbooks for the school and also committed to buy the school 225 new sets of school desks, amounting to \$12, 650.

*Students in Ravot Village Will Learn Technical Skills and Eat in Safe Facilities*

On September 14, rehabilitation on a new cafeteria and three classrooms was completed in secondary school #12 in Ravot Village of Kanibadam district. The new classroom space will be used by students to study professional skills including leather-working, welding, embroidery, tailoring and cooking.

As the school director Zafar Erkayev explained, the previous cafeteria located across the road from the school was small, uncomfortable and failed to meet minimal sanitary conditions. The cafeteria included little more than one big table and two long benches. The poor sanitary state of the dining hall had even become the source of disease among children. During breaks between classes, children would often run across the busy road, which on several occasions nearly created accidents. From now on, the schoolchildren will be able to eat in new clean cafeteria which is located in the school campus.

Furthermore, the new classrooms will help to train children in important skills necessary for economic opportunities. The previous classrooms used to teach technical skills had nearly crumbled to the ground and were badly in need of repair. “Young people need new skills to be able to find employment in the new job market,” a member of the community initiative group, Amina Khamdamova said. “Now mothers can worry a little less about their children when they are at school – as well as after they graduate.”

*Drinking Water System in Kyrgyzstan to Resolve Source of Cross-Border Conflict*

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, more than one thousand people participated in a *hashar* in the villages of Min-Uruk and Min-Bulak in the Batken district of Kyrgyzstan in order to dig trenches for a drinking water system’s pipes. As has been the case in PCI communities in the past, residents from the neighboring Tajikistan village of Surh participated in the community mobilization effort in this cross-border village.



Tajik and Kyrgyz adults and children worked side-by-side to dig the trench stretching about two kilometers.



*Community Mobilization*

The drinking water project which will be completed in mid-October will include a piping system which extends for 10,167 meters, the installation of 16 drinking points, and the construction of a chlorinated structure for disinfecting water. The source of this new gravity flow water supply system is a pure water spring located on the western dam of the Tort-Gulskiy water reservoir.

As PCI team six member Timur Bobokalonov said: “The successful completion of this project will not only help the Kyrgyz residents settle a long standing dispute with their Tajik neighbors, but will prevent the growth of water-borne infectious diseases among the population.” Currently, the only water which enters Min-Uruk and Min-Bulak is from an open channel which extends more than 1.5 kilometers and is intended only for irrigation. However, because of the lack of alternatives, local residents are compelled to use this water for drinking and cooking. This has resulted in high rates of disease in on both the Tajik and Kyrgyz sides of the border.

The total project cost is \$31,000, which includes community contribution in the form of voluntary labor, and the preparation of food for the workers.

## **VII. Coordination**

During the period covered by this report, PCI coordinated activities with numerous USAID implementers and other international organizations. Coordination has been a key element of the PCI program from its inception. Not only does it provide a greater breadth to PCI’s community development process; it also exposes the communities to new ideas and other programming. Coordination has also proved appealing to other donors as they can tap into PCI’s relationships with local government and community members and know that their programs will have greater impact.

- **USAID's SHEP** program continued to collaborate in 24 PCI communities.<sup>4</sup>
- **Junior Achievements Program** based in Khujand provided trainings for school teachers on economics. New economic textbooks were distributed to 12 schools in 6 PCI communities (Kalacha, Pakhtaabad, Ovchi, Kulunda, International, and Kayragach).
- **ADRA** provided women and children (up to 2 years old) with clothes for PCI communities Pakhtabuston, and Vorukh.
- Local Kyrgyzstan based NGOs FTI and Umut-Balykchi in cooperation with international organization **Help Age (UK)** a pilot project funded by TACIS was started in PCI communities Jar-Kyshtak and Jani-Abad. The goal of the project is to increase role of elderly citizens in community development. Self-help groups were established base on PCI's model of Community Initiative Groups.
- **DFID** continued its funding of the project "Women as Leaders in Water Resource Management" in four PCI communities in Uzbekistan. The project is focused on women's role in the sustainability of potable water systems built with USAID funding.
- Continued coordination with **RDD** project funded by **SDC** on the Karabog canal rehabilitation project in PCI communities Chorbog-Karabog (TAJ) and Dostuk (KYR).
- Sport equipment donated **Nike Corporation** continued to be distributed to PCI community sports leagues.
- **Citi Hope International**, through a program funded by the US Department of State, has donated medicine to the Sogment Health Clinic.
- **GTZ** will train 6 doctors and nurses in a 6 month certified training program in Andijan from Buriboshi, Nayman, Eshon in Andijan Oblast.
- **ACTED** is providing microcredit for PCI Communities Jar-Kyshtak, and Jani-Abad and Jeke-Miste in Kyrgyzstan and Buriboshi, Nayman, and Eshon in Uzbekistan.
- Met **JICA** to give a security update in the Ferghana Valley. JICA are deciding whether to continue activities in the Ferghana Valley after the kidnapping of 4 Geologists in 1999 in Batken Oblast.
- Six PCI Field Officers attended training on conflict in Osh by **Responding to Conflict** a British based NGO.
- **ACDI-VOCA** has agreed to provide microcredit in Baba Ghafurov District, Tajikistan in PCI Communities.

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<sup>4</sup> For more information on USAID's SHEP program collaboration with PCI see USAID's PCI Quarterly Report (Jan-Mar 2004).

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## Appendix A: PCI Infrastructure Projects July-September 2004

#	Community	Project name	Brief Description	Status	Start Date	End Date (est)	Comm. Cont (\$)	Project total (\$)	Direct Beneficiaries
1	Kalacha, TAJ	Village Health Clinic	Construction of village health clinic	ongoing	01/Aug/03	09/Nov/04	6394	23571	6110
2	Pahtaabad, TAJ	Canteen Construction	Construction of cafeteria	completed	10/Aug/03	31/Aug/04	2673	10564	281
3	Sharkabad, UZB	Knowledge-Source of Development	School construction	completed	27/Oct/03	31/Aug/04	10160	35641	260
4	Ravot, TAJ	Flame of Dream	Construction of natural gas pipeline	completed	Oct/03	25/Aug/04	23230	47091	2310
5	Gulistan, TAJ	Water-Future of Gulistan	Construction of pump station & water pipeline 6298m long	ongoing	01/Nov/03	10/Nov/04	21256	59640	2157
6	Khushyar, UZB	Children - Our Future	Reconstruction of old kindergarten into school	completed	08/Dec/03	31/Aug/04	3896	15231	3260
7	Eshon, UZB	Golden Water	Construction of water system & repair of water supply main line	completed	10/Dec/03	20/Aug/04	7864	24271	1794
8	Korayantak, UZB	Construction of Goat Farm	Build goat farm for 200 goats and purchase 120 goats	completed	20/Jan/04	31/July/04	2968	9015	1460

9	Surh, TAJ	Spring - II	To provide electricity for 4 drinking water wells	completed	20/Feb/04	20/Aug/04	5924	23207	9000
10	Min-Oruk, Min-Bulak, KYR	Value of Potable water in Min-Oruk	To provide Min-Oruk and Min-Bulak villages with pure potable water by construction of water system.	completed	28/Feb/04	25/Oct/04	9275	29122	430
11	Kulunda, KYR	Golden Step-II	Build school for 320 students (second floor)	completed	Feb/04	31/Aug/04	33594	48895	640
12	Katput, UZB	Pump Station Construction	Pump station construction	completed	01/March/04	01/Oct/04	5257	26218	675
13	Buriboshi, UZB	Blue Gold	Natural gas pipeline construction	completed	15/March/04	20/Sept/04	7118	33621	2100
14	Jar-Kyshtak, KYR	Pakhlavon	Reconstruction of old kindergarten into village health clinic and maternity house	completed	April/04	01/Oct/04	7788	25027	11513
15	Bakhmal, UZB	Village Cultural Center	Cultural Center Rehabilitation	completed	April/04	25/Aug/04	6376	13974	1159
16	Ravot, TAJ	School Canteen and Workshop	Building a new cafeteria Ravot school	completed	April/04	14/Sept/04	5963	23015	536
17	Jigdalik, TAJ	Beam	Installation of transformer substation	completed	April/04	25/Aug/04	1520	5888	1858



18	Yangi Ravot, TAJ	Kindergarten and Village Health Clinic	Repair buildings of kindegarten and village health clinic	completed	April/04	31/July/04	3850	13325	1953
19	Kalacha, TAJ	Rehabilitation and Repair of Roof of School #8	Rehabilitate and repair roof of school building #8	completed	01/Apr/04	14/Oct/04	14181	34181	1560
20	Kalaynav, UZB	Rehabilitation of Internal Roads	Rehabilitation of internal roads	completed	28/Apr/04	20/Aug/04	4368	21410	3395
21	Borbalyk, UZB	Football Stadium Rehabilitation	Football Stadium Rehabilitation	completed	19/Apr/04	16/June/04	1454	5507	1917
22	Korayantak, UZB	School Stadium Rehabilitation	School stadium Rehabilitation	completed	19/Apr/04	19/June/04	1743	8148	682
23	Chorbog, TAJ	Electricity for Chorbog	Construction of system of regular electricity	completed	26/Apr/04	05/Aug/04	686	4227	62
24	Karobog, TAJ	Dream of people	Install transformer	completed	26/Apr/04	05/Aug/04	1239	3343	735
25	Kayragach, KYR	We Construct the School Ourselves	Rehabilitate the existing secondary school	ongoing	May 2004	08/Nov/04	6966	23767	670
26	Kaytpas, KYR	Hospital Roof Rehabilitation	Construction of wood carcass and roofing 390 m2 with zinc metal sheets	completed	24/July/04	24/Aug/04	1080	5665	5007
27	Kara-Tokoy, KYR	School Campus Construction	Construction of additional building for Kara-Tokoy school consisting of 6 rooms	ongoing	01/June/04	15/Nov/04	12167	42414	190

28	Dostuk, KYR	The Path to Friendship	Construction of road between two communities	ongoing	20/Aug/04	15/Nov/04	1113	5513	357
29	Jani-Abad, KYR	Knowledge	Roof Construction and Capital Repair of School Building	completed	01/July/04	25/Oct/04	9944	24544	300
30	International, KYR	"Gulakandoz"	Clean drainage canal and to protect transborder villages from flooding	ongoing	15/July/04	15/Dec/04	23703	71585	1500
31	Karabog, TAJ	Dream of People	Construction of Potable Water System	completed	01/Sept/04	28/Oct/04	872	3114	735
32	Surh, TAJ	Spring-III	Construction of water reservoir to Surh potable water system	ongoing	20/Sept/04	30/Dec/04	4040	13040	9000

**Appendix B: PCI Social and Skill Building Projects July-September 2004**

#	Community	Project name	Brief Description	Status	Start Date	End Date (est)	Project total (\$)	Number of beneficiaries
1	Batken, Boz-Adyr, Sogment, Kara-Tokoy KYR Rovon, Sharkabad, Khushyar UZB	Batken-Sokh Volleyball League	Organize Volleyball League for youth from 4 Kyrgyzstan and 3 Uzbekistan communities	completed	01/Nov/03	02/July/04	4000	100
2	Ovchi, Kalacha, Pakhtaabad TAJ; International, Kulunda, Kayragach, KYR	Junior Achievements	Conduct trainings on Economic and Business in cross-border villages of B.Gafurov (TAJ) and Leylek (KYR)	completed	May 04	10/Oct/04	10520	200
3	Bakhmal, Vorukh, Pakhtabuston, UZB; Ravot, Jigdalik, Yangi Ravot, TAJ	Implementation of Women's forum for CIG	Implementation of Women's forum for CIG	completed	10/Apr/04	30/Apr/04	2270	60
2	Pakhtabuston, UZB	Nurse Program	To provide small repair and equipment to the room in the medical center that will be used by nurses. To educate 12 nurses.	completed	05/May/04	30/Aug/04	2821	653
4	Buriboshi, UZB	Start Your Business	17 women from 3 Kyrgyzstan and 3 Uzbekistan rural border communities will be trained on enterprise establishment and activities.	completed	22/June/04	24/June/04	230	17

5	Jani-Abad, KYR	Women and Sport	Organize volleyball competition for 60 women from 3 Kyrgyzstan and 3 Uzbekistan rural border communities in order to strengthen friendly dialogue between these multi-ethnic groups.	completed	19/Aug/04	19/Aug/04	175	60
3	Surh, TAJ	Through Sport to Peace	Provide 3 schools with sport inventory	completed	05/May/04	05/July/04	1973	650
6	Ovchi, Kalacha, Pakhtaabad TAJ; International, Kulunda, Kayragach KYR	Summer Youth Educational School	Organize Summer Youth Educational School for youth from 3 tajikistan and 3 Kyrgyzstan communities	completed	12/July/04	22/July/04	4684	80
7	Osh, KYR	Camp of Friendship-III	Organize international summer camp for 128 kids from communities Eshon, Nayman, Buribashi (UZB) and Jar-Kyshtak, Jani-Abad and Jeke-Miste (KYR)	completed	25/July/04	05/Aug/04	7372.5	155
4	Ovchi, Kalacha, Pakhtaabad TAJ; International, Kulunda, Kayragach KYR	Training: Family planning, healthy style of life, Traffic	Organize training on family planning, healthy life style and Traffic.	completed	02/Aug/04	08/Aug/04	1846	50
8	Kizil-Bulak, KYR	World of Peace	International Summer Camp for 72 youth from 2 Kyrgyz and 4 Uzbek communities	completed	03/Aug/04	12/Aug/04	3707	82

9	Borbalyk, Kalaynav, Katput, Korayantak, UZB Kyrgyz-Kyshtak, Kaytpas, KYR	Youth for Peace and Good Neighborly Relations	Organize volleyball tournament between 4 Uzbekistan and 2 Kyrgyzstan communities in honor of opening ceremony of two infrastructure projects in Korayantak village. 2 neighboring Uzbekistan (non-PCI) communities were involved.	completed	27/Sept/04	27/Sept/04	311	60
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## Appendix C: USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Logical Framework

<b>Goal: Reduced Potential for Conflict in the Ferghana Valley</b>				
<b>SMART OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>KEY OUTPUTS</b>	<b>MAJOR ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>
1. Improved cooperation between ethnic groups and across international boundaries.	1) Six social projects that provide a vehicle for communication across borders, between communities and ethnic groups, per regional cluster of PCI communities, per year. 2) One informal multi-ethnic, multi-CIG network per PCI region which jointly plans events to bring residents together on a frequent basis	1.1 CIGs will identify past social traditions and current social needs to develop programs and events designed to bring people together within their own community and with residents from neighboring communities 2.1 Assist CIGs in developing a network to jointly plan multi-community trans-border social events within the geographic area of their respective teams	A. Number of social projects involving more than two ethnic groups implemented by the end of each year B. Number of multi-community social projects that each informal network organizes and implements outside the project framework by the end of the project C. Percentage of infrastructure projects that provide a service to multi-ethnic populations or cross-border. D. Number of multiple-community infrastructure projects	A. 2002 – 24 2003 – 88 2004 – 80 B. 53 C. 90% D. 16
2. Increased community participation in identifying and resolving local priorities utilizing local resources and skills.	1) One informal network of community leaders (CIG) with experience bringing residents together and collectively solving problems per PCI community by the end of Year Two 2) CIGs will manage the implementation of least two infrastructure projects, addressing community identified priorities, per community by the end of the project 3) At least 25% community contribution of materials and labor per infrastructure project 4) A transparent process of project selection and implementation per infrastructure project 5) A formal association for the long-	1.1 Creation of a demographically representative CIG through a transparent selection process 1.2 Build the capacity of CIG members to prioritize community problems and propose technical solutions in the form of single or multi-community infrastructure projects 2.1 Provide trainings to CIGs in all aspects of the project cycle 2.2 CIGs are responsible for the identification of local resources, design and implementation of technical projects 3.1 CIGs work with communities to identify, contribute and document the maximum	A. Number of infrastructure projects per community (output) B. Percentage of communities that have implemented more than two infrastructure projects C. Percentage of population that pays for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects with pricing mechanism. D. Number of formal associations (i.e. water users associations) operating at the end of the project.	A. 2.4 B. 52% C. 70% D. 19

	term management of each infrastructure project with user fees for operation and maintenance.	<p>amount of community resources</p> <p>4.1 Build capacity of CIGs to design and facilitate a transparent project selection process</p> <p>4.2 Build the capacity of CIGs to inform residents of resource allocation, management and pricing plans parallel to project implementation</p> <p>5.1 CIGs will form independent associations to manage the sustainable operation of infrastructure projects with user fees for operation and maintenance.</p>		
3. Increased community-based advocacy and government support of community driven initiatives.	<p>1) Community leaders articulating and advocating community needs to local government.</p> <p>2) Local government contribution of material resources to at least 50% of all PCI infrastructure projects.</p> <p>3) Attendance of local government officials in at least 25% of all PCI social events.</p>	<p>1.1 Build capacity for CIG members on community advocacy via trainings, workshops and exchanges.</p> <p>2.1 CIGs will solicit material contributions from local government for each infrastructure project</p> <p>3.1 CIGs will invite local government representatives to attend all single and multi-community social events.</p>	<p>A. Percentage of PCI infrastructure projects that receive government contribution</p> <p>B. Percentage of PCI social events attended by local government officials</p> <p>C. Number of PCI community priorities addressed through CIGs advocating to local governments outside of the PCI project framework</p>	<p>A. 95%</p> <p>B. 76%</p> <p>C. 19</p>

## Appendix D: List of USAID's Peaceful Communities Initiative Communities

USAID/PCI Communities				
№	Community	Country	Team	Population
1	Ovchi	Tajikistan	1	3891
2	International	Kyrgyzstan	1	3193
3	Kalacha	Tajikistan	1	6057
4	Kayragach	Kyrgyzstan	1	2369
5	Pakhtaabad	Tajikistan	1	817
6	Kulunda	Kyrgyzstan	1	7938
7	Pakhtabuston	Uzbekistan	2	1900
8	Vorukh	Uzbekistan	2	2400
9	Jangi Ravot	Tajikistan	2	2000
10	Jigdalik	Tajikistan	2	1800
11	Ravot	Tajikistan	2	2400
12	Bakhmal	Uzbekistan	2	4500
13	Boz -Adyr	Kyrgyzstan	3	1890
14	Kara- Tokoy	Kyrgyzstan	3	722
15	Sharkabad	Uzbekistan	3	2190
16	Sogment	Kyrgyzstan	3	1582
17	Charbak	Kyrgyzstan	3	356
18	Khushyar	Uzbekistan	3	5500
19	Jar –Kyshtak	Kyrgyzstan	4	1800
20	Jani- Abad	Kyrgyzstan	4	4200
21	Buriboshi	Uzbekistan	4	1802
22	Nayman	Uzbekistan	4	1050
23	Jeke- Miste	Kyrgyzstan	4	2313
24	Eshon	Uzbekistan	4	1820
25	Kaytpas	Kyrgyzstan	5	1600
26	Korayantak	Uzbekistan	5	1302
27	Kyrgyz- Kyshtak	Kyrgyzstan	5	3209
28	Borbalyk	Uzbekistan	5	7133
29	Katput	Uzbekistan	5	4775
30	Kalaynav	Uzbekistan	5	3395
31	Mingorik-Mingbulak	Kyrgyzstan	6	430
32	Dostuk	Kyrgyzstan	6	450
33	Surh	Tajikistan	6	10000
34	Chorbog-Karabog	Tajikistan	6	300
35	Gulistan	Tajikistan	6	1849
36	Kim	Tajikistan	6	1700
<b>Total:</b>				<b>100663</b>